

BEST STARTS FOR KIDS

Resilient children and strong communities are the foundation for the future.

Babies' brains grow at lightning speed in the first three years, and continue to develop in adolescence and early adulthood. The lives they will grow up to lead hinge on the supports they receive as children and the strength of the communities in which they live.

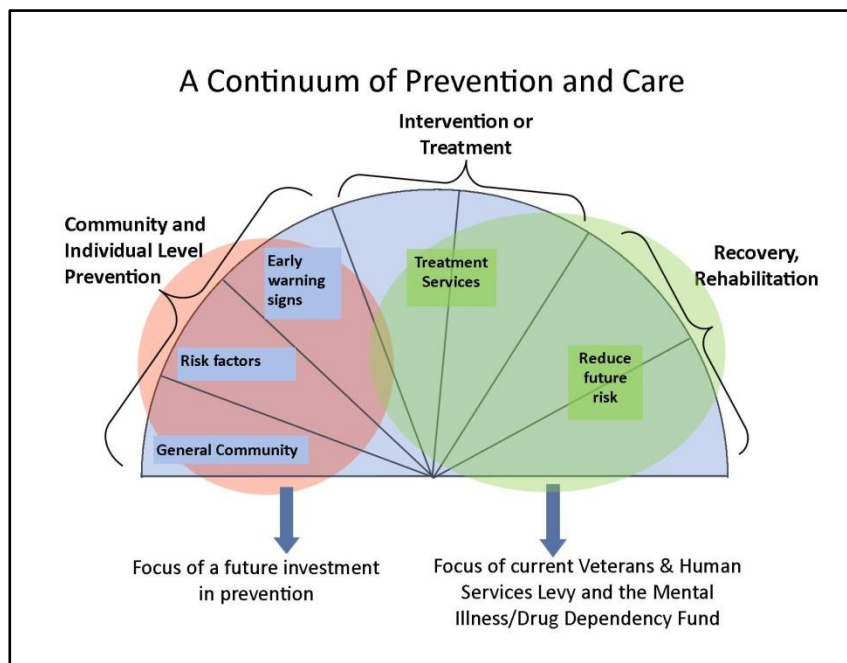
We can build a better future for today's children, families and communities.

A Prevention Investment Portfolio

		
Pregnancy & Early Childhood	School-aged Children & Youth	Communities of Opportunity Fund
Prevention Opportunity: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Healthier moms deliver healthier babies.• Families are supported to form close bonds and active roles in early childhood development.• Babies and toddlers have a healthy start in life and a strong foundation for brain growth, and preschoolers are set on a pathway to success.	Prevention Opportunity: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children and youth engage in meaningful social and family relationships and progress toward a healthy, safe, academically and vocationally successful life.• Physical and behavioral health issues are prevented outright or identified and treated early to prevent future crises.	Prevention Opportunity: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The places where we live, work, learn and play are supported to create safe, welcoming and healthy neighborhoods.• Communities are in the driver's seat and have the capacity to address issues they care about most.
Assuring a Strong Return on Investment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High quality, culturally responsive strategies.• Use of innovation, data and science to inform investments.• Measure results, learn from feedback, and make course corrections as needed.		

Why this? Why now?

The earliest experiences in life shape future physical, social and emotional well-being. To stay prosperous as a region, and achieve our vision of equity and opportunity for all, we must increase our investments in prevention. This is the critical next piece in our human and community investment portfolio, expanding on previous successes helping people with immediate crisis and recovery needs by intervening earlier.



PREVENTION is the key.

Smart public investments in proven prevention strategies will pay back many times over. The result: people and communities are healthier, safer, more successful and prosperous.

The earlier we invest, the better the outcomes. Early childhood programs show returns ranging from \$3 to \$17 dollars for every dollar invested. More important is the difference these investments can make to the lives of our children, and to the community as a whole.

The benefits are clear.

- **Positive brain development:** Families are supported and empowered to be their babies first teachers and the foundation is laid during the period of rapid brain development for lifelong success in learning.
- **Academic success:** Children entering kindergarten are ready to learn and stay on track for high school graduation.
- **Lower health care costs throughout life:** Costly chronic health conditions, including mental illness and substance use disorders, are prevented or addressed early on.
- **Safer communities:** Our communities will see less child abuse and neglect, less violence in homes and communities, less homelessness and fewer incarcerations.
- **Stronger economy:** Businesses have the skilled, productive workforce they need to stay competitive.